

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-28. (Canceled)

29-51. (Canceled)

52. (New) A method of detecting relative cleavage of type I and type II collagen in patients suffering from osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis which comprises determining the ratio of C1, 2 C neoepitope to C2C neoepitope.

53. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52, wherein a higher result of said ratio is predictive of a greater subsequent progression of non-generalized osteoarthritis.

54. (New) A method as claimed in claim 53, wherein said osteoarthritis is knee osteoarthritis.

55. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52, wherein a lower result of said ratio is predictive of a greater subsequent progression of rheumatoid arthritis.

56. (New) A method for determining a ratio of C1, 2C neoepitope to C2C neoepitope in a biological sample, which comprises the following steps:

- a) contacting the C2C neoepitope with an antibody which binds thereto;
- b) measuring the binding of the antibody to the C2C neoepitope in step a);
- c) contacting the C1, 2C neoepitope with an antibody which binds thereto;
- d) measuring the binding of the antibody to the C1, 2C neoepitope, in step c); and
- e) determining the ratio of binding in steps b) and d).

57. (New) A method as claimed in claim 56, wherein, the antibody in step a) is a monoclonal antibody.

58. (New) A method as claimed in claim 56, wherein the antibody in step c) is a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody.

59. (New) A method as claimed in claim 56, wherein the binding in steps b) and d) is measured using labeled antibody conjugated to an enzyme.

60. (New) A method as claimed in claim 56, wherein the C2C neoepitope has the following peptide sequence:

C – G – G – E – G – P – P(OH) – G – P – Q – G (COL 2-3/4 C long peptide) (SEQ ID NO:1)

61. (New) A method as claimed in claim 56, wherein the C1, 2C neoepitope has the following peptide sequences:

C – G – P – P(OH) – G – P – G (COL 2-3/4 C short peptide) (SEQ ID NO:2)